

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## § 14.501

### § 14.501 Functions and responsibilities of Regional Councils.

(a) Functions and responsibilities of the Regional Councils are those set forth in this part and all other matters assigned by the General Counsel.

(b) In any matter within the jurisdiction of the General Counsel, delegated or otherwise assigned, the Regional Counsel and designated staff attorneys are authorized to conduct investigations, examine witnesses, take affidavits, administer oaths and affirmations and certify copies of public or private documents.

(c) The Regional Counsel is authorized to, and shall, under the guidance of the General Counsel, provide legal services, advice and assistance to Department of Veterans Affairs installations within the district assigned. In any area of regulatory, assigned or delegated responsibility, the Regional Counsel may delegate to staff members or other Department of Veterans Affairs attorneys authority to perform, to the extent specified, any legal function under the professional direction of the Regional Counsel. Conversely, the Regional Counsel may modify, suspend, or rescind any authority delegated hereunder.

(d) The Regional Counsel is authorized to cooperate with affiliated organizations, legislative committees, and with local and State bar associations to the end that any State law deficiencies relating to Department of Veterans Affairs operations may be removed. No commitment as to proposed legislation will be made without the approval of the General Counsel.

(e) In any case wherein the Regional Counsel is authorized to take legal action and payment of costs and necessary expenses incident thereto are involved, the administration requesting such action will pay such cost and expenses. Where it is impractical for the Regional Counsel to perform the legal service because of cost, distance, etc., the customary fee for the service rendered by a local attorney employed by the Regional Counsel will be borne by the administration requesting such action.

(f) The jurisdictions and addresses of Regional Councils are as follows:

(1) *Region 1:* (JURISDICTION) Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island; (ADDRESS) JFK Federal Bldg., Room E213, Boston, MA 02203.

(2) *Region 2:* (JURISDICTION) New Jersey, Metropolitan New York City; (ADDRESS) 800 Poly Place, Building 14, Brooklyn, NY 11209.

(3) *Region 3:* (JURISDICTION) District of Columbia; Fairfax, Virginia; Arlington, Virginia; Alexandria, Virginia; Martinsburg, West Virginia; and Maryland; (ADDRESS) 849 International Drive, Suite 200, Linthicum, MD 21090.

(4) *Region 4:* (JURISDICTION) Pennsylvania, Delaware; (ADDRESS) 1000 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

(5) *Region 5:* (JURISDICTION) Georgia, South Carolina; (ADDRESS) 730 Peachtree Street, NE., Atlanta, GA 30365.

(6) *Region 6:* (JURISDICTION) Florida, Puerto Rico; (ADDRESS) P.O. Box 5002, Building 22, Room 333, Bay Pines, FL 33504.

(7) *Region 7:* (JURISDICTION) Ohio, West Virginia (excluding Martinsburg, West Virginia); (ADDRESS) 1240 East Ninth Street, Room 1225, Cleveland, OH 44199.

(8) *Region 8:* (JURISDICTION) Arkansas, Tennessee; (ADDRESS) Federal Courthouse Annex, 110 9th Ave., S., Nashville, TN 37203.

(9) *Region 9:* (JURISDICTION) Alabama, Mississippi; (ADDRESS) 1500 E. Woodrow Wilson Dr., Jackson, MS 39216.

(10) *Region 10:* (JURISDICTION) Illinois, Iowa; (ADDRESS) VA Medical Center, Bldg. 50, P. O. Box 127, Hines, IL 60141.

(11) *Region 11:* (JURISDICTION) Michigan, Wisconsin; (ADDRESS) Patrick V. McNamara Federal Bldg., Suite 1460, 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48226.

(12) *Region 12:* (JURISDICTION) Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska; (ADDRESS) 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive, St. Louis, MO 63125-4185.

(13) *Region 13:* (JURISDICTION) Oklahoma, Northern Texas; (ADDRESS) 1400 N. Valley Mills Dr., Waco, TX 76799.

## § 14.502

(14) *Region 14:* (JURISDICTION) Louisiana, Southern Texas; (ADDRESS) 6900 Almeda Road, Houston, TX 77030.

(15) *Region 15:* (JURISDICTION) Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota; (ADDRESS) VA Medical Center, One Veterans Drive, Bldg. 73, Minneapolis, MN 55417.

(16) *Region 16:* (JURISDICTION) Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana; (ADDRESS) Box 25126, 155 Van Gordon Street, Denver, CO 80225.

(17) *Region 17:* (JURISDICTION) Lower California; (ADDRESS) 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024.

(18) *Region 18:* (JURISDICTION) Upper California, Hawaii, Central and Northern Nevada, and Philippine Islands; (ADDRESS) VA Medical Center, 4150 Clement Street, Bldg. 210, San Francisco, CA 94121.

(19) *Region 19:* (JURISDICTION) Arizona, Southern Nevada, and New Mexico; (ADDRESS) 3225 N. Central Ave., Rm. 305, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

(20) *Region 20:* (JURISDICTION) Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska; (ADDRESS) 1220 SW Third Ave., Portland, OR 97204.

(21) *Region 21:* (JURISDICTION) New York (except Metropolitan New York City), Vermont; (ADDRESS) 120 LeBrun, Buffalo, NY 14215.

(22) *Region 22:* (JURISDICTION) Indiana, Kentucky; (ADDRESS) 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Room 309, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

(23) *Region 23:* (JURISDICTION) North Carolina, Virginia (excluding Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria); (ADDRESS) 251 N. Main Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27155.

[42 FR 41411, Aug. 17, 1977, as amended at 61 FR 7216, Feb. 27, 1996]

### § 14.502 Requests for legal opinions from Central Office.

Requests for formal legal advice, including interpretation of law or regulations, shall be made only by the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, the Assistant Secretaries, the Deputy Assistant Secretaries, and the administration head or top staff office official having jurisdiction over the particular subject matter, or by a subordinate acting for any such official.

[54 FR 34982, Aug. 23, 1989]

## 38 CFR Ch. I (7-1-02 Edition)

### § 14.503 Requests for legal advice and assistance in other than domestic relations matters.

(a) Requests from administrative officials in the field for legal advice or assistance will be addressed to the appropriate Regional Counsel and will be in writing if requested by the Regional Counsel. Questions regarding insurance activities at St. Paul and Philadelphia should be referred to the Regional Counsel at the respective station. Except as to matters referred to in § 14.504(b), the Regional Counsel's authority to render legal advice and assistance shall extend to the release (unless otherwise instructed by the General Counsel), without prior approval of the General Counsel, of opinions on all legal questions which are either:

(1) Wholly controlled by the interpretation or application of the laws of the State or States in the district office area, or

(2) Covered by Department of Veterans Affairs precedents and opinions of the General Counsel which the Regional Counsel knows to be currently authoritative on the issues involved.

In cases covered by § 14.504(b) and all others not included in paragraph (a)(1) or (2) or paragraph (b) of this section, the Regional Counsel will prepare a tentative opinion (including identification of the benefit sought) and forward it to the General Counsel for review. When it is returned, the Regional Counsel will conform the opinion (if necessary) to the views of the General Counsel, and release it to the requesting official. The Regional Counsel may release any modified opinion as the opinion of the General Counsel.

(b) The Regional Counsel may submit to the General Counsel any legal question, opinion, or question pertinent to legal functions, upon which the views or advice of the General Counsel are desired. This request should set forth the special circumstances, contain a statement of the legal implications involved (including any Department of Veterans Affairs benefits claimed), set forth the facts out of which they arise, and cite any statutes or court decisions readily available, regulations, related opinions of the General Counsel and other matters deemed pertinent, with